

REMARKS

Claims 1-27 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 9, 14-15, 19-22 and 26-27 are amended. No new matter is added. The claims are not narrowed by such amendment. Reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested.

The courtesies extended to Applicants' representatives by Examiner Lamb at the interview held June 15, 2004 are appreciated. The reasons presented at the interview as warranting favorable action are incorporated into the remarks below.

I. §102(b) Rejections

Claims 1-7 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) over U.S. Patent 5,481,367 to Yokoe et al. ("Yokoe "). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Independent claim 1 recites, *inter alia*, a transmission unit that "transmits print data and related image data" to a print control device that "outputs the related image data when requested by a user." Applicants respectfully submit that Yokoe does not disclose, teach or suggest a device that "transmits print data and related image data" to a print control device that "outputs the related image data when requested by a user," as recited in independent claim 1. The application describes related image data on page 11, lines 15-21, as any of "reduced data of print data; predetermined characters, figures, or symbols that represents the print data; user name of the client device; or any combination of these. That is to say, any data that enables the user to grasp the correspondence between the related image data and the corresponding print data." As an example, Figures 5 and 6 each depict a display via which a user is able to select one of a printout and a page of a selected printout, respectively, based upon the displayed related image data.

Yokoe discloses, as stated at col. 1, lines 37-40, "a printing apparatus capable of allowing the print format to be changed as needed in order to boost the efficiency of printing." Yokoe discloses, at col. 2, line 21-32, a controller that allows a user to format a print

document by specifying, as described in detail at col. 2, lines 42-53, "data related to the print format, such as the font type, print layout, sheet size, magnification factor, and color."

Based upon the above, Applicants respectfully submit that the "related data" described in Yokoe is limited to printing format control information. Nowhere does Yokoe disclose, teach or suggest a device that "transmits print data and related image data" to a print control device that "outputs the related image data when requested by a user," as recited in claim 1.

Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that claim 1 is patentably distinguishable over the applied art. Claims 2-7 depend from independent claim 1 and are likewise patentably distinguishable over the applied art for at least their dependence on an allowable base claim, as well as for additional features they recite. Accordingly, withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

II. §103 Rejections

The Office Action rejects claim 8 under 35 U.S.C. §103 as unpatentable over Yokoe in view of U.S. Patent 5,864,652 to Murahashi.

Claim 8 depends from claim 1. Murahashi fails to overcome the above-described deficiency of Yokoe with respect to independent claim 1. Therefore, the asserted combination of Yokoe and Murahashi does not teach or suggest the combinations of features recited in claim 1.

For at least these reasons, it is respectfully submitted that claim 8 is patentably distinguishable over the applied art for at least the reasons discussed above, as well as for additional features that claim 8 recites. Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

III. Rejection of claims 9-27 under §102(b) and §103

Page 5, line 1, of the Office Action states that, "the limitations of claims 9-27 are met by the rejections above.

Claims 9, 14-15, 19-22 and 26-27 are amended. Support for the amended claims is found throughout the specification. Specific support is located, for example, at page 11, lines 15-21, the written description of Figures 5-6 and Figures 5-6.

Applicants respectfully submit that claims 9-27 are patentably distinguishable over the applied art for at least the reasons discussed above, as well as for additional features they recite. Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

IV. Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of all claims are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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